

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DACCA 07212 160627Z
ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 XMB-04
OPIC-06 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 H-02
NSC-05 SS-15 STR-05 CEA-01 PA-02 PRS-01 AGRE-00
OES-07 IGA-02 /120 W
-----068004 161615Z /40

R 150935Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7415
INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

UNCLAS DACCA 7212

PASS AID/ASIA/BIS

MANILA FOR USADB

FOR NAC AGENCIES

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS : EAID, EFIN, BG
SUBJECT : PROPOSED ADB AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (BANGLADESH)

REF: (A) MANILA 19084, (B) DEPT. TREAS CITE NO.77-189 DTG 1217072
DEC 77

SUMMARY: MISSION CONCERNED ABOUT PROBLEMS OF COORDINATION WITH ADB.
MISSION WHILE WORKING ON RESPONSE TO REFTEL (A) RECEIVED REFTEL (B)
INFORMING THAT NAC HAD APPROVED PROJECT. THEREFORE, USAID COMMENTS
ON THE OVERALL ADB PROJECT WOULD BE IRRELEVANT TO NAC DECISION;
HOWEVER USAID ADVISES IT IS CANCELLING APPROVED PROJECT IDENTIFI-
CATION DOCUMENT ON FISH SEED MULTIPLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION
(PROJECT 0039) BECAUSE OF DUPLICATION BY SUB-PROJECT 1 OF ADB
PROJECT. MESSAGE PROVIDES CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO OUR
DECISION TO CANCEL. END SUMMARY.
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1. LATE IN 1976 THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE DIVISION OF
FORESTS, FISHERIES AND LIVESTOCK, THE BDG REQUESTED U.S. ASSIS-
TANCE IN THE FISHERIES SECTOR AND INVITED USAID TO REVIEW A NUMBER
OF PROPOSED PROJECTS. AFTER DUE CONSIDERATION USAID INFORMED THE
BDG OF ITS INTEREST IN ONLY ONE PROJECT AREA -- THAT OF FISH SEED
MULTIPLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION IN RELATION TO ITS EXISTING 93

FISH SEED MULTIPLICATION FARMS (FSMFS).

2. IN JANUARY USAID BEGAN AN INTENSIVE REVIEW OF INLAND FISHERIES THAT INCLUDED NUMEROUS FIELD TRIPS WITH DIRECTORATE OF FISHERIES (DOF) PERSONNEL. FROM THIS REVIEW AND IN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH KEY DOF STAFF AND OTHER DONORS, USAID DEVELOPED, BY APRIL, BASIC CONCEPTS FOR A PROJECT. THE PID DID NOT STATE HOW MANY FSMFS WOULD BE DEVELOPED, BUT RATHER, EMPHASIZED THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SYSTEM OF FISH MULTIPLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION THAT WOULD INCLUDE EXTENSION ASPECTS AS WELL AS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT OF FSMFS. THE NUMBER OF FSMFS AND ALL TECHNICAL DETAILS WERE TO BE WORKED OUT LATER BY CONSULTANTS WORKING WITH THE DOF IN DESIGNING THE DETAILED PROJECT.

3. THE PID FOR A FISH SEED MULTIPLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION PROJECT WAS SUBMITTED TO AID/W ON JUNE 1 FOLLOWING ITS APPROVAL BY THE DOF AND AN OFFICIAL BDG REQUEST. IN LATE AUGUST PID WAS APPROVED BY BUREAU FOR ASIA, AID, AND IN SEPTEMBER USAID BEGAN WRITING SCOPE OF WORK FOR TECHNICAL TEAM TO ARRIVE IN JANUARY 1978 TO DESIGN PROJECT AND ASSIST IN WRITING THE PROJECT PAPER.

4. DURING THE ABOVE PERIOD, ADB WAS ON A PARALLELED TRACK. IN APRIL 1977 A TEAM OF CONSULTANTS CONTRACTED BY ADB BEGAN TO ARRIVE. TEAM LEADER J.D. TORRES WAS INFORMED OF AID FISH SEED MULTIPLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION PROJECT PROPOSAL AND WAS REQUESTED TO KEEP USAID INFORMED OF THEIR FINDINGS AND TO COORDINATE ANY ACTIVITIES THAT ADB MIGHT BE CONSIDERING FOR SUPPORT IN THIS AREA. TEAM WAS GIVEN UNCLASSIFIED

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COPY OF PID IN JUNE. DISREGARDING REQUEST, CONSULTING GROUP MADE NO EFFORT TO ARRANGE MEETINGS OR TO INFORM US ON THEIR PLANS. ON OCTOBER 4, MESSRS. THEIN TUN NGIVE AND V.M. NAIR, ADB REPRESENTATIVES FROM MANILA CASUALLY STOPPED BY USAID AGRICULTURAL OFFICE PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE FROM BANGLADESH. THEY EXPLAINED, AND USAID LEARNED FOR THE FIRST TIME, THAT ONE OF THE ADB SUB-PROJECTS WOULD INVOLVE 5 HATCHERIES AND 50 OF THE FSMFS, BUT NO WRITTEN DETAILS WERE PROVIDED. UNDERSTAND THAT THIS ADB CONTACT WAS MADE FOLLOWING QUERY BY UNDP IF THEY HAD SEEN USAID BECAUSE THERE WAS POSSIBILITY OF DUPLICATION OF EFFORT. UNDP REPRESENTATIVES WERE ALSO DISTURBED BY ADB ELEVENTH HOUR CONTACT WITH THEM AS UNDP HAS ON-GOING PROJECTS IN FISHERIES SECTOR.

5. ON NOVEMBER 14, USAID RECEIVED FROM U.S. ALTERNATE DIRECTOR, ADB, A SUMMARY OF THE AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN BANGLADESH REQUESTED IN TELEGRAM DACCA 6191.

6. ON DECEMBER 7 USAID AGRICULTURAL STAFF MET WITH JOINT SECRETARY, DR. YUSUF ALI AND DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES, SHAMSUL HAQUE. DR. ALI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MINISTRY WAS IN AN EMBARRASSING POSITION IN RELATION TO INLAND FISHERIES, THE BDG HAVING ASKED TWO DONORS TO DO THE SAME WORK. USAID REPRESENTATIVES INFORMED DR. ALI THAT

THERE WOULD BE A DUPLICATION OF EFFORT AND THAT EITHER THE ADB OR AID SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD IN ASSISTING IN THE PROJECT DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT. DR. ALI STATED THAT THE ADB AQUACULTURE PROJECT AGREEMENT HAD ALREADY BEEN SIGNED BY THE BDG AND THUS IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO WITHDRAW THE ADB SUB-PROJECT DEALING WITH INLAND FISHERIES. USAID REPRESENTATIVE THEN TOLD DR. ALI THAT THEY WOULD RECOMMEND TO THE MISSION DIRECTOR THAT AID SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT BE WITHDRAWN.

7. WHILE IT APPEARS THAT THE MINISTRY WAS MORE CONCERNED WITH GETTING MAXIMUM DONOR RESOURCES RATHER THAN IN DEVELOPING A WORK-ABLE INLAND FISHERIES PROJECT, THE MISSION BELIEVES THE ADB DID NOT ADEQUATELY COORDINATE ITS INVESTIGATION AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT WITH OTHER DONORS. THIS IS A PROBLEM WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED PREVIOUSLY
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WITH ADB.

8. USAID IS WITHDRAWING ITS REQUEST FOR \$4.5 MILLION TO SUPPORT THE FISH SEED MULTIPLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION PROJECT.

9. THIS CURRENT INSTANCE RE-AFFIRMS THE MISSION'S POSITION THAT IN LIGHT OF ITS LARGE INVESTMENT IN BANGLADESH, ADB OFFICE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN DACCA FOR OVERALL COORDINATION AND PROJECT MONITORING.
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